

## Historic, archived document

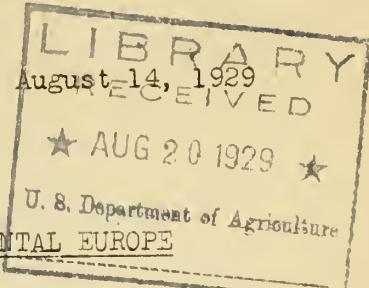
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



52 F  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington

F.S.  
A-257

FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES



JULY PROSPECTS FOR APPLES AND PEARS IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE

The present outlook for the 1929 apple crop on the Continent of Europe is much more promising but for pears it is somewhat less favorable than last year, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Mr. Owen L. Dawson, Acting Agricultural Commissioner in Berlin. If favorable conditions prevail from now on, Europe will be much less dependent on American fruit supplies than last year. The market for large shipments of American apples will open late this season, possibly not before the New Year. All of this is based on the assumption, however, that weather conditions will remain favorable to the time of harvest. Developments during August and September may result in a crop below present expectations. The period from July 10 to July 24 this year was very hot and dry, but the July damage to fruit is thought to be smaller than last year as June precipitation this year was abundant, and the heat wave in July has since been followed by cooler weather.

The unusually cold weather experienced during the past winter killed a great many fruit trees in continental countries. This winter kill, however, was confined mainly to stone fruits. Apples and pears suffered only to a comparatively small extent. The percentage of winter kill was the largest in the Northeastern sections of the Continent, which are not very important for fruit production. Winter kill in Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria, however, was also large. While old trees of small importance suffered most from the extensive cold, very young trees were also damaged in some localities. Although winter kill of apples and pears generally was comparatively small it will probably have some effect upon the crop during the next few years.

Blossoming of apples and pears in almost all parts of Europe took place under favorable conditions. Blossoming of both apples and pears was abundant, but a heavy dropping of pears took place in some of the important producing sections. Taking the Continent as a whole it appears that the outlook for table, kitchen and cider apples is considerably better than last year. Germany, France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium, Scandinavia give promise of a better crop than last year. In places the crop is very good. In the Italian Tyrol and Austria and probably Poland, however, a small apple crop is expected. Pear conditions over the Continent in general are unfavorable and the crop is expected to be smaller than in 1928. This is especially true of Germany and Czechoslovakia. The latter is very important as an exporter of pears. Most of the other European countries show pear prospects much the same as last year. The only places where a better crop of pears is expected this year are Switzerland, France, and for early varieties, the Italian Tyrol.

Germany

Present conditions for apples in Germany vary from average to good. Blossoming was abundant and night frosts did not occur during the critical time. Prospects in the surplus districts on the banks of Lake Constance, in



the Rhine Valley and its tributaries, in Wurttemberg, Bavaria and Central Germany are fairly good to good. According to trade opinions the commercial crop of the countries surrounding Lake Constance will be 3 to 4 times as large as last year. Damage from insects was generally smaller than in normal years. The variety "Schöner von Boskoop", very much favored by German consumers, does not promise satisfactory yields. Of early varieties "Weisse Klarapfels" promises a good crop, but the prospect for "Gravensteins" is relatively poor.

The outlook for pears in Germany this year is rather poor and the crop promises to be lighter than last year. It appears that pear trees have suffered somewhat more from the cold winter than apple trees. Dropping of pears was heavy after a fairly good blossoming.

If growing conditions continue favorable from now on, the continental market for American apples will be rather unfavorable, as American fruit will have to compete with a good German and European crop. It is possible, however, that the German market in August and September will be favorable for American Gravensteins as the domestic crop of this variety seems to be small, and the Italian Tyrol will not have a large export surplus. According to a report of a well known fruit company in Hamburg, it can be expected that the outlook for barrelled American apples during the coming campaign will be less favorable than for boxed apples as the competition of barrelled apples with domestic fruit is stronger than that of boxed apples.

#### France

In spite of some damage caused by storms and insects the present outlook in France for apples and pears (especially cider fruit) seems fairly favorable and considerably better than last year. Blossoming was very favorable, but recent reports state that dropping has increased slightly. The outlook for pears is somewhat better than for apples.

#### Italy

Only a small apple crop is expected in the southern Tyrol this season. This area is the most important export district for apples and pears in Italy. The production of apples and pears in the province of Bolzano is thought to be about 1000 car loads as compared with about 3000 in 1928. The quality and keeping capacity, however, promise to be good. A good pear crop is expected in Italy. The outlook for early varieties is especially favorable. The quality of the early pears, however, is not satisfactory in every respect. Winter kill in southern Tyrol was comparatively small and will not exceed 5 per cent which includes mostly very old trees with a small amount of young trees. Blossoming took place under favorable conditions and night frosts during blossoming time occurred only in spots. In other parts of Italy the apple and pear crops seem to be fairly good.

#### Switzerland

In Switzerland crop prospects are favorable for apples and very favorable for pears in comparison with 1928. During June conditions developed less favorably but remained much better than last year. With normal conditions from now on a crop equal to the average of the last ten years can be expected. Early and late varieties as well as table, kitchen and cider apples are equally good. The fruits are well developed and clean and therefore promise a



good quality. The trade expects a much greater export this season than last season. Winter kill of apples and pears was small in Switzerland and is hardly a factor in the situation. Blossoming was accompanied by favorable weather.

#### Austria

In Austria the apple crop will be small and lighter than last year with a pear crop about as large as the outturn of a year ago. From the end of May to the beginning of July condition of both apples and pears developed unfavorably. In Austria a large number of apple and pear trees were killed by the unusually cold winter. Since then insects have contributed to the deterioration in condition.

#### Czechoslovakia

Apple conditions as of the middle of July in Bohemia promise a crop which will be about 50 per cent larger than last year. It is expected that the commercial and export crop will be correspondingly increased. Conditions for table, kitchen and cider apples are equally good. The quality of the apple crop is expected to be medium and the keeping capacity good. In Slovakia and Ruthenia early apples are reported as poor but late varieties are better.

On the other hand, prospects are for a pear crop of only 1/3 of last year's yield. The quantities available for export will therefore be small. In good years Czechoslovakia is of very great importance as a pear exporter to Northern Europe. Winter pears show better conditions than early and autumn varieties. Exports of early and autumn varieties are expected to be 70 per cent smaller than last year. The variety "Kaiserkrone" shows an especially poor condition. The export of winter pears, however, may be larger than last year.

Winter kill was extensive in Czechoslovakia, but affected the stone fruits more than apples and pears. Considerable insect damage has been done to pears. In general the early apple crop in Czechoslovakia will not be as good as last year but late varieties will be better.

#### Holland and Belgium

Both countries, which had a very poor apple crop last year, show better conditions this year. The official Dutch fruit condition report as of July 26, 1929, states that apple prospects are good and much better than last year. Prospects for the popular "Gold Rinette," however, are said to be not so good as last year. Prospects for pears are fair and about as good as last year. The outlook for apples and pears in Belgium is reported as good. During the coming season it is expected that fruit from Holland and Belgium will be exported to the industrial section of Western Germany and will compete there with American fruit.

#### Other countries

In Poland the winter kill of apple and pear trees was very extensive and it is thought that the crop this year and also in the next few years will be materially decreased for that reason. Early reports from Norway and Sweden indicate that apples and pears have blossomed well and that the outlook is quite favorable. Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria report favorable conditions for apples. Newspaper reports state that Bulgaria will endeavor to find a market for her apple surplus in Germany this season.

